Sl. No.	Name of the Programme	No. of episodes granted for telecast
4.	Ehsaas	260
5.	Kiran	390
6.	Apne Mere Apne	260
7.	Jayein Kahan	130
8.	Sansaar	104
9.	Kyon Apne Hue Paraye	104
10.	Sanskar	26
11.	Woh Huye Ne Hamare	78
12.	Lal Kothi Alvida	52
13.	Main Banoongi Miss India	78

Prasar Bharati have informed that all programmes are previewed before telecast to ensure that they lend themselves to family viewing and thereby have no adverse effect on the life of common man. The decision to grant extension to these programmes beyond the originally approved number of episodes was taken after considering the quality of production, popularity of the programme and the revenue being earned from them.

(d) Prasar Bharati have informed that the serials telecast on Doordarshan continue to enjoy the highest viewership in all homes.

Telephone service providers in Urban and Rural areas

419. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether private service providers are not interested to extend their telephone services in rural areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to make it mandatory for all service providers to extend their services in rural areas;

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(e) the percentage of telephone services provided in urban areas as compared to rural areas during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) and (b) The private sector telecom service providers are generally focusing more on urban areas because of higher revenue per line in urban areas compared to that in rural areas. Higher economic and literacy status as well as easier availability of supporting infrastructure in the urban areas are also contributing factors.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Following steps have been taken by the Government to improve telecom services in rural areas:—

(i) Provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in all the remaining uncovered eligible villages, excluding villages having less than 100 population, lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc.

(ii) Provision of Rural Community Phones (RCPs) with population more than 2000 and where there are no Public Call Offices (PCOs).

(iii) Replacement of Multi-Access Radio Relay (MARR) VPTs.

(iv) Provision of Rural individual phone connections (RDELs) on demand in 1685 commercially unviable Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs), through subsidy from Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund.

(v) Large scale deployment of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) network in rural areas by BSNL.

(vi) Relaxation of the outdoor cable norms to 5 kms as against the earlier norm of 2.5 kms for landline exchanges by BSNL.

(vii) BSNL has planned extensive infrastructure rollout which will provide mobile coverage.

(e) The percentage of telephone services provided in urban areas as compared to rural areas during the last five years is given as under:—

Year (As on March)	Percentage of urban telephone connections	Percentage of rural telephone connections
2002	79.66	20.34
2003	79.11	20.89
2004	83.96	16.04
2005	86.20	13.80
2006	89.81	10.19